

USDA seeks to tighten rules on imported wool



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LANCASTER — Stricter regulations concerning manure-contaminated wool imported into the United States have been proposed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prevent the risk of introducing foreign animal disease.

In the past, wool taken from live animals could be imported without restrictions, providing it was "reasonably" free of manure. This may result in the importation of wool that is contaminated

Contaminated shipments present a large risk of introducing harmful animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest and anthrax into the United States

Since wool has an oily, greasy texture, it is more susceptible to manure contamination than other animal products. To reduce

this contamination, only manure-free wool taken from animals that have been slaughtered and wool taken from the upper part of live animals—also referred to as full skirted—would be allowed to be imported.

According to Pierre Chaloux, deputy administrator for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, wool

taken from the animal's upper body would tend to be free of manure and therefore reduce the risk of animal disease transmission.

"These restrictions will cause only minimal interference with international trade," he added "This will help keep foreign diseases from infecting our livestock"

N.Y. livestock dealer ordered to stop violations

CHERRY CREEK, N.Y. — Langless Brothers Auction Market, Inc., Cherry Creek, N.Y., has been ordered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to stop violating bonding requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act

The firm, registered with USDA as a dealer to buy and sell livestock and a market

agency to sell livestock, operates in New York.

Administrative Law Judge William Weber ordered Langless Brothers to stop operating without filing a reasonable bond to secure its livestock obligations. Although the firm now has an adequate bond and may operate the cease and desist

Wool which is imported into the United States would be accompanied by a certificate issued by the government of the country of origin if would certify that the wool was full skirted if from live animals or free of manure if from animals that have been slaughtered. Inspection would be made at three U.S. ports of entry to

determine compliance with this regulation

Written comments on this proposal should be addressed to the Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, VS, Federal Building, Room 815, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782

The proposal was published in the November 26 Federal Register

order, like a permanent injunction, remains in full force because the firm is still under order not to violate the bonding requirements of the P&S Act

James L. Smith, P&S official, said the firm consented to the order, waived its right to an oral hearing and neither admitted nor

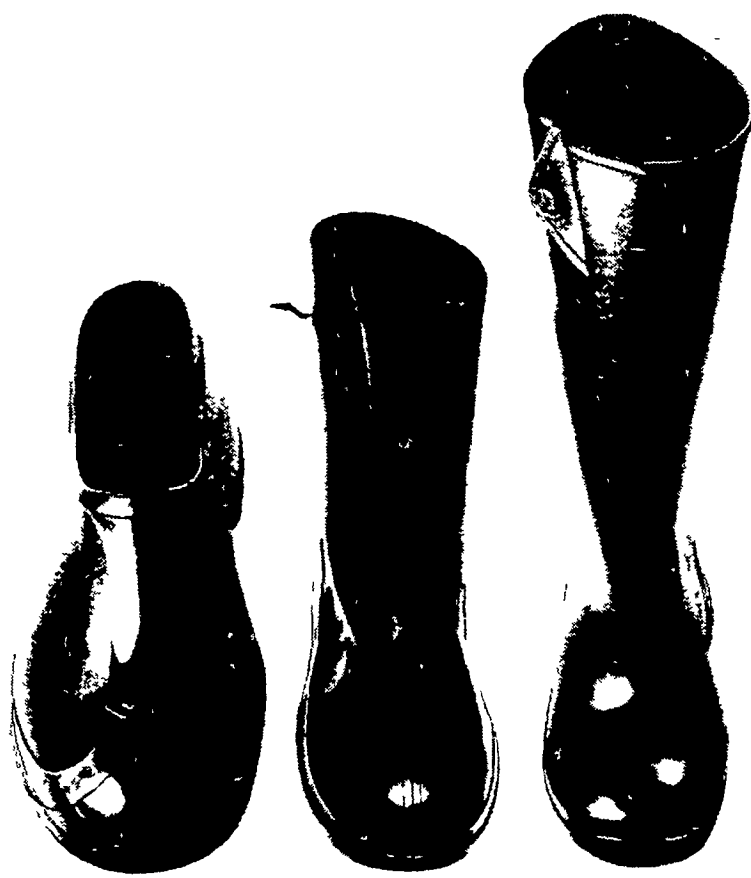
denied the charges in a USDA administrative complaint.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practices law administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. It promotes fair and open competition in the marketing of livestock, meat and poultry.

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